

# ? TRIVIA QUESTION

THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW April 12

Which NSA leader uttered the following, “I have been both obstetrician and pediatrician to NSA”?

- A. Mr. William F. Friedman
- B. DIRNSA, General Michael Hayden
- C. Deputy DIRNSA, Ann Caracristi
- D. DIRNSA, General Ralph Canine
- E. Deputy DIRNSA, Louis Tordella



*General Canine's retirement ceremony at the Pentagon*

**TRIVIA ANSWER:** General Ralph Canine turned over the leadership of NSA to General John Samford and bid farewell to all in his November 20, 1956, speech attended by the Secretary of Defense. In the speech General Canine, who rarely lacked a colorful phrase, characterized his role as the last Director of the Armed Forces Security Agency (July 1951 – October 1952) and DIRNSA

(October 1952 – November 1956), “I have been both obstetrician and pediatrician to NSA. The ‘Noble Experiment’ of 1952 is out of swaddling clothes.”

Along with the characterization of his own personal role in establishing NSA, General Canine provided the audience with a number of other observations, many of which have gone on to become foundational tenets of NSA:

### **Personnel**

1. “Skilled people are the most important resource and the most precious asset—even more important than high-speed machinery—to a cryptologic agency.”
2. “It takes about five years to turn a bright young college graduate into a professional analyst.”
3. “In 1951, the turnover rate of our civilian employees [AFSA] was over 40 per cent a year. Last year, it was 14 per cent. When we made our first partial move to Fort Meade in January, 1955, we lost only 41 of 2000 employees who made the move.”

### **Automation**

1. “The most important general development in communications analysis during the past five years has been the introduction of high-speed electronic equipment.”
2. “...we have during this past year installed our first remote-controlled computer. With such a computer, analysts may operate routine programs and get the results without leaving their own working spaces.”
3. “...perhaps in 5–10 years, will give us machines which will operate at milli-megacycle rates. Such machines do not replace people.”

### **Mission**

1. “The very considerable advances which we have made in COMSEC have been paralleled by notable advances in most other nations. In particular, Soviet COMSEC improvement has been remarkable.”

2. "...human, not machine, errors have and probably will continue to cause all but a very few of the compromises of encrypted messages."
3. "Korea found us operating in a tightly-controlled fashion, directed from Washington. It didn't work, and by the time I became Director, some autonomy had been granted to the Far East COMINT organizations."

### **The Future**

1. "I leave my successor some unfinished business.
  1. The relocation of the Agency.
  2. The remaining steps of the internal reorganization of the Agency.
  3. The intercept deployment program.
  4. The external decentralization program."
2. "I think it is vital that NSA become an accepted member of the National Intelligence Community. For five years we have worked in, at best, a partial vacuum."

DIRNSA Canine closed his presentation thanking those who had made his challenge of birthing a new national intelligence agency much smoother stating, "I was horrified and disappointed when General Collins, then Chief of Staff of the Army, told me I was to take this job—but I must now confess that I have thoroughly enjoyed these past five years. Thank you!" As with many founders of successful organizations, General Canine set the high standards by which NSA would someday be described as a "National Treasure."

**508 CAPTION: Senior Defense Department officers and civilian leaders, not further identified, and General Canine saluting during the general's retirement ceremony at the Pentagon.**